



Monterey Bay



Habitats

Sandy beaches
Rocky shores
Kelp forests
Submarine canyon
Pelagic, open ocean
Wetlands

Key Species

Sea otter
Gray whale
Market squid
Brown Pelican
Rockfish
Giant kelp

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

is the nation's largest marine sanctuary, spanning over 5,300-square miles of coastal waters off central California. Within its boundaries are a rich array of habitats, from rugged rocky shores and lush kelp forests to one

of the deepest underwater canyons in North America. These habitats abound with life, from tiny plants to huge blue whales. With its great diversity of habitats and life, the sanctuary is a national focus for marine research and education

Research Activities

The sanctuary develops regional research priorities with 20 local marine science institutions and encourages research through numerous avenues, including funding specific projects. Research activities include monitoring coastal ecosystem change, evaluating the scientific component of resource management issues and disseminating scientific information through publications and symposia.

Education Activities

Sanctuary publications are comprised of natural history books, research and education directories, newsletters, brochures, posters, and videos. Interpretive exhibits and displays are circulated around the area. Public lectures and events, teacher training and curricula for students, internship and volunteer programs complete the range of sanctuary activities.



Location
Central California coast

Protected Area
5,328-square miles

Designation
September 1992

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Above: Monterey's coast-line; left to right: colorful tide pool; California sea lions; huge sea star surrounded by sea stars, urchins, and anemones

